



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#10  
Election  
12-18-02

In re Application of COLLIER ET AL.

)

) Art Unit: 3673

)

Serial Number 09/830,388

) Examiner: Singh, S.

)

Filed APRIL 26, 2001

) Atty Docket: COL001

For: OFFSHORE STRUCTURE

RESPONSE

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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DEC 06 2002  
GROUP 3600

Sir:

This paper is filed in response to the Office Action dated October 29, 2002 issued in the above-identified U.S. patent application. A Petition to extend the time for filing this response one month and the appropriate fee are enclosed.

In general, the Office Action sets forth a restriction between claims 1-16 and 37; claims 17-25, 29-36 and 38; and claims 26-28. The Examiner has indicated that these claims are related as apparatus, method of installing and method of locating offshore structure respectively. Although the Applicant strongly disagrees with the Examiner with respect to the restriction between Groups II and III which are both directed to method aspects of the present invention, the Applicant does not traverse the restriction between the apparatus claims, i.e., claims 1-16 and 37, and the method claims. Instead, the Applicant hereby elects apparatus claims 1-16 and 37 for initial prosecution in this application.

When the Examiner acts on the elected apparatus claims, a reconsideration of the restriction between Groups II and III is requested. More specifically, it is respectfully

**Response**

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submitted that the Applicant should not be required to file three separate applications to cover the claimed subject matter. Particularly, it is respectfully submitted that the Applicant could readily add a dependent claim to Group III directed to the "jacking up the deck" which would obviate the basis for the restriction requirement. Given this obvious potential change, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner at least withdraw the restriction between Groups II and III for purposes of the future filing of a divisional application.

If the Examiner should have any additional concerns regarding this response, he is cordially invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided below if it would further expedite the prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: December 4, 2002

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